

and of reproducing themselves. This abortive daughter-colony constitutes the male element, endowed with movement and still enjoying a certain activity. Soon the vegetative cell becomes incapable of segmenting; it can only increase in volume: it is the female element deprived of motion, which requires, in order to reproduce itself, to fuse with the male element.

Sexuality in *Tolvaæ* appears then by degrees, the male sex appearing before the female sex as fast as the species exhausts itself by asexual reproduction.

We must compare this fact with what takes place in the animal kingdom in the animals which are reproduced by parthenogenesis. Professor Balbiani has observed that certain Aphides and the *Phylloxera* degenerate when they are reproduced during a certain time by parthenogenesis; their genital and digestive organs tend to become atrophied. There is a time when the parthenogenetic individuals thus degraded give origin first to male individuals, then to female individuals, which require to be fecundated to reproduce new parthenogenetic individuals.—*Comptes Rendus*, July 24, 1876, p. 287.

*On the Fur-Seal of the Islands of St. Paul and Amsterdam.*

By Prof. W. PETERS.

Last year (*Monatsberichte*, 1875, p. 393) I had the honour of making a communication to the Academy upon a fur-seal from Kerguelen's Land which constitutes a species with a peculiar cranial structure. It was described from a complete young female specimen and the skin of an adult male. I remarked that unfortunately there was no skull with the latter; but I had the less doubt as to its belonging to the same species, as the coloration was similar and the place of origin appeared to be the same, seeing that it was packed in the same vessel with sea-elephants from Kerguelen's Land without any special note. Nevertheless, from a communication made to me by Dr. Studer since his return, there has been an error in this respect, inasmuch as the skin of the male animal originates not from Kerguelen's Land, but from St. Paul or Amsterdam Island. It now became of the greatest importance to me to ascertain by the examination of the skull whether this species agrees with that from Kerguelen's Land, or with the *Otaria Forsteri* of New Zealand, which has lately been carefully investigated by Mr. Clark, of Cambridge. By the great kindness of Prof. Milne-Edwards I have been enabled to make this examination; and it appears therefrom that the fur-seal of St. Paul and Amsterdam agrees neither with *O. gazella* from Kerguelen's Land, nor with *O. Forsteri* of New Zealand, at least so far as can be ascertained by comparison with the figure and description of the skull of the latter. The fur-seal of St. Paul and Amsterdam is quite different in colour from *O. Forsteri*; and in its cranial structure it seems to be intermediate between this and *O. gazella*. I therefore propose for the fine eared seal of St. Paul and Amsterdam the name of *Otaria (Arctophoca) elegans*, and will venture shortly to make a more detailed communication upon this subject.—*Monatsber. der k. preuss. Akad. der Wiss. zu Berlin*, May 1876, p. 316.